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NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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The Editor will gratefully receive contributions, in English or Tamil, of articles on matters of *National War Front interest*, and publish them, if suitable, as signed articles, in the Bulletin. The articles should be short and reach the Editor a week in advance.

LECTURE CLXIX.

THE WAR FOR LIBERATION

ITS SCOPE AND METHODS.

INDIA'S ROLE IN IT.

(by Mr. K. Srinivasa Raghavan, B. A., B. L., Vakil, Pudukkottai)

(Contributed).

The War is raging, the greatest of all wars and the greatest for all time. Extensive in scope, exhaustive in methods, in all its features, it breaks all records. It is an epoch-making War which, in its scheme and purposes, promises the dawn of a glorious New Order in the world.

Enshrouding the whole sphere of life the devastation of this War is beyond estimate. Science and machinery, more than man-power, hold the field. The latest discoveries and inventions and all the devices of destruction employed in this War leave whole ages behind. What with the growth of population and the methods of recruitment and conscription, the strength of the levies in this War is many times greater than during the last Great War. With industrial expansion and quicker and improved methods of production, the quality, quantity and variety of the supplies and war materials have exceeded those of any other War known to history. The cost of fighting has shot up from millions to billions and trillions. The statistics of this War are astronomical.

It is a "total" war in which no area, not even civilian, is exempt from attack—no man, woman or child is left untouched—all have to face it. It demands "total" resistance.

Distinguished by its purposes also, it is not a war for territorial expansion, for control of markets or for commercial ends. It is not animated by motives of race or colour. The actual parties now at war cannot rightly fit in to any geographical or political divisions such as countries or continents. This War cannot be styled Anglo-German, or Franco-German, or even, European, Asiatic or American.

But, in the true perspective, this War is charged with high spiritual and moral values. As frequently reiterated from the platforms, in the press and over the ether it is "a war of ideas"—"a war of socio-political ideologies"—a war in which the will to be free fights against the will to dominate. It is the supreme human struggle to wipe out servitude and suppression from the world for ever. It is a war of the champions of Democracy and Freedom against the forces of Military dictatorship and totalitarian tyranny.

Freedom is the birthright of all. It is the very beacon light of humanity. It burns for ever immaculate and inextinguishable. Peace and Plenty follow it. Freedom and Peace are the cherished treasures of Man. Without them life seems empty and not worth living. "Liberty, equality and fraternity" as the basic principles of constitution and of political life are the very breath and soul of civilised peoples. The quest of the civilised world is the attainment of a New Order with abiding Freedom, Peace, Plenty and Prosperity. Liberty in its practical realisation, in the progressive democracies of the world, is the free expression of the mind and the soul of peoples. All nations, great or small, have their rights to self-determination and independence. They have their right to live their lives their own way. Every attack on their liberty, every attempt to subdue them by threat, menace or force of arms necessarily provokes strong resistance. The zeal for Freedom can never be suppressed. The greater the pressure put upon it, the greater its resistance and the more potent its reactions. Liberty being a birthright, every aggression against it rouses sympathetic resistance from all quarters. Every attack on any unit of freedom becomes an attack on the very principle of freedom. One cannot go to sleep when one's neighbour's house is on fire. If one free nation is thrown down to-day, to-morrow will come the turn of another. If the forces of tyranny are not overthrown at the very start, they will in due course, gain strength and momentum, too violent to be easily subdued later. That is exactly what has happened in this War.

The United Nations entertain no hatred of any particular people, nation or country as such. They have no prejudice against the Germans, the Italians, or the Japanese for their nationality. The great leaders of thought, culture and civilisation, be they of Germany, Italy or Japan, are equally respected. Their greatness has an universal appeal. The peaceful and freedom-loving masses are also innocent and require to be liberated. But such of the elements among these peoples, as have shocked the world with their atrocities, those great criminals who have conspired, designed and perpetrated international crimes and brought on universal disaster and irreparable grief, will stand condemned for their crimes. It is to put them down, to avenge the wrongs they have inflicted, and to arraign them before the High Tribunal of Nations

that this greatest of all wars is being waged. We are at perfect peace and in excellent amity with all lovers and promoters of Liberty and Peace, be they of any country, race, creed or nationality.

This War is the greatest reaction of Democracy's maximum potential against the aggregate pressure of the maximum combination of totalitarian forces. It was in the throes of such reaction against the theory of "blood and iron" and against the Kaiser's attempt for world-domination that the last Great War was waged. Now again, within a quarter of a century we are in the midst of another earthshaking war for the same purpose.

With the restoration of peace after the last War, the world seemed to have emerged into a happy state of peace and prosperity. Many countries voted for Freedom, proclaimed democracy and set up parliamentary institutions. Even Germany proclaimed at Weimar a constitution on the most liberal terms, for a republican democracy-Rumania, Poland, the Austro-Hungarian Succession States and the Baltic States—all of them voluntarily formed democratic parliamentary Governments. Democracy seemed to have asserted itself permanently. But that was not to be.

In the midst of the economic disasters after the Grert War, the great load of reparations, the failure of currencies, famine and indebtedness and the impossibility of economic rehabilitation by the inefficient democratic bodies of the European countries, Mussolini with his "band of black-shirts", and Hitler with his "band of brown-shirts" steadily swung themselves into dictatorships. The assumption of the Chancellorship of the Reich by Herr Hitler and the firing of the Reichstag in 1933 were the earliest signals of danger to the democracies. Already Mussolini had become a sort of "Princep", Il Duce, of Italy and regimented that country after the Fascist-ideal. Hitler's occupation of the Rhineland was his first open challenge to the Democracies. He threw down the gauntlet when, in 1938, he staked a claim for the return of the Germans outside the jurisdiction of the Reich. In sheer defiance, he overran Austria. Then followed his rape of CZECHOSLOVAKIA and the practical annexation of Bohemia and Moravia. Not content, he was making tremendous preparations and mobilising in haste for greater ventures. The grave situation caught the nations napping. Then, the British Prime Minister, as leader of the peace-front, tried every means to effect an amicable settlement. But the Fuehrer, adamant on the Danzig and Corridor questions, pounced upon Poland, defying the peace moves. England and France, in sheer loyalty to their treaty obligations with Poland, and under greater obligations to the safety of themselves and all the nations, had to declare war on Germany.

The Axis powers are staking their all for world domination. In Germany there is only one party monopolising all offices and wielding all the power, controlling the Press, and with one man at the head dictating and directing the activities of the State. It is a totalitarian State not to be distinguished from Imperial Japan. Fascism, and Nazism, and Imperialistic Japan are all Dictatorships. They have joined to ruin the world. It is unfortunate that things have headed to such a climax.

The Democracies are making an all-out effort to make the rule of force impossible in future, and to establish the rule of law on a permanent bed-rock of world-harmony and liberty.

The impact of these titanic forces is of universal consequence and will leave no section of India unaffected.

Victory is indispensable for the United Nations and to India in particular, to keep her freedom growing. The more we reason, the more determined we are to do our utmost to achieve that end, to throw into the balance all we have against all the temptations held out by our foes. Two centuries of British guidance have helped steadily to build our present structure, in perfect peace and amity. Who in India "breathes with soul so dead" as to give up all the social, political, constitutional and economic progress made through these centuries in exchange for utter slavery and degradation, which are the inevitable consequences—God forbid the calamity—of an Axis victory? We know our wily foes too well, and their political experiments and constitutional prescriptions better. Like the proverbial spider they invite us to walk into their parlour. We are already on the high road to freedom. Are we to deviate and lose ourselves to the ruthless tyranny of heartless dictators? Are we to ruin our industrial progress and forsake all our great projects, and content ourselves with mean and slavish drudgeries? We shall not, dare not, leave things to such a fate. We shall stand together, muster all our resources, concentrate all our energies, give and do all in our power to the great and glorious cause, and win the Victory so invaluable to us, the Allies and all lovers of democracy and freedom.

The War has been raging for four years now. The War has infected the whole earth, and even our comparatively remote country has become an important theatre. We are witnessing military manoeuvres round about us and the enemy is prowling at our doors. Now is the time for us to shake off all prejudices, sink our differences and rise equal to the occasion.

Let us take stock of the present situation. The early days of the War were no doubt gloomy. The United Nations were practically caught unawares and for sometime they had to prepare. Heavy losses and grave set-backs alternated with large gains and laudable advances. Now we are at the peak of the strife, and with the experience we have gained, we are confident and look forward, with bright hope and stout resolution, to fight the War to a successful finish, and, probably sooner than many of us anticipate, to give the knock-out blow to our enemies. The year 1942 left the balance fairly in our favour, and 1943 is closing with the reassurance of success. Russia has not only admirably withstood the treacherous blows of her some-time-ally, but has also been successfully retaliating with redoubled potency and crowning her heroism with immortal glory. The 'ironsides' of Hitler, frozen in the icefields of Russia, are so badly battered and broken that they can no more hope for Spring or Summer chances. The dreams of Hitler have been smashed for ever, and his lofty, pompous arrogance has changed into apologies with many 'ifs' and 'buts'. He is now bankrupt and short of all the essential war materials. His followers are distressed and decimated by the fateful campaigns. The morale of the enemy is on the ebb. They are a set of beaten, war-worn, disgruntled men. Heavy losses and discomfitures have disillusioned them as to the potency of their arms. Hitler, their Chief, is no more an *avatar*. Their plans in the Middle East have failed. Cyprus, Iraq, Syria, and Persia are now beyond their reach. Africa is no more for them. . .

But shrewd military observers will not be misled into over-confidence. The enemy is still formidable. Forced to stand at bay, he will fight with the courage of despair. He is also cunning. He will try to entangle an unwary opponent. He is a desperate propagandist. Did he not try to poison Poland against Russia? He will employ all his strategy and ruthless diplomacy. And there is the Jap in the bargain, a dangerous, insincere, treacherous foe—whose initial successes in the East have been spectacular. Look at his present róle. Like the child-stealer of our granny's tale enticing children away with toys and sweets, this neo-redeemer comes with smiles and sweet promises to give us political salvation. His solicitude for Mohamedan self-determination is his latest political stunt. But we know his designs well enough, and cannot fail to read his intentions. His onslaught was all too sudden. But thanks to the Anglo-American comradeship, thanks to alert Australia, thanks to the tenacious heroes of China, the situation is well in hand, and it will not be long before the Japs will be made to quail and fall back, repent and sue for peace.

On the whole, we have fairly emerged from the most trying times, and, in the company of our great Allies, we are stronger than ever before. Our war effort is tremendous and progressive. Our supply of men and munitions has been multiplying from year to year. Attempted blockades have been effectively broken. We have won an overwhelming supremacy in the Air, and our sea-power stands unchallenged. All things point to our victory. Another effort, another concentrated pull is bound to crown us with complete success.

FIELD-MARSHAL SMUTS' STATEMENT.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH.

A crisis did come, and in worse form than anybody had ever anticipated. But, so far from causing a break-up, it has only cemented us more closely in common understanding and in unity of action.

This great Commonwealth of sovereign States spread over the world, the forerunner of the future Parliament of man, is to-day, under the most searching of tests, more of a reality than ever before, just as it is to-day a greater power for good, a stronger buttress of man's future, than it has ever been in the past."

SPECTACULAR CHANGE.

If the enemy had reached the Volga-Caspian line in the north, and had taken Egypt in the south, and from both these points, had pushed on to join hands with Japan moving westwards to India and the Indian Ocean, what a mortal blow would have been struck at our prospects of victory! His vision of a Nazi-Samurai world would have been within his grasp. That was his grand design, which was shattered by the Russians at Stalingrad, and by the British Commonwealth at El Alamein. The end is not yet, but these victories mark the beginning of the end. They were decisive turning points, and are now developing to their logical and inevitable conclusions towards victory.

AIR-WAR.

Our bombing offensive is having the dimensions and effects of a large-scale additional front. The Germans have not only lost reinforcements of 50 or 60 Italian divisions—it may not be long before the bulk of them will be fighting on our side.

I wish to say with all emphasis that nothing comparable, or of greater importance, has been achieved in this war.

We have already gone farther and achieved more than we had planned to do by next winter. We may confidently reckon on still further advances, especially in Southern and South-Eastern Europe, and, by the coming winter, we shall have closed in upon Hitler's central fortress of Europe, and be making our dispositions for a grand assault by all arms next year.

THE FIRST PRIORITY.

That assault will be our first priority, and while it goes on we shall be increasing our pressure in the Far East, and taking all preparatory steps for the assault upon Japan, which is our second priority.

The fall of Hitler in the West will have far-reaching repercussions in the Far-East, and will probably facilitate and hasten the fall of Japan. The collapse of Germany may mark the beginning of a cataclysmic turn of events in the Far-East, and of the early ending of the war thereafter.

POST WAR.

The answer should be our relentless, ever-increasing, pressure until the whole imposing structure begins to topple.

The policy of continuous pressure, begun in the Russian offensive since Stalingrad, and in our own increasing tempo of attack since El Alamein, should be prosecuted ceaselessly, so that the final decision could be forced as soon as possible next year. The immediate task when the war ends will be the salvaging of Europe from the wreck of war. The mere physical effort of feeding, housing, and caring for the distraught populations will tax our resources as if it were another chapter of the war. And we shall have also to deal with the psychological aftermath of these conditions, in order that Europe may not lapse into anarchy and barbarism.

NO REPETITION OF 1918.

Our vital public interest, no less than our private human feelings, will be engaged in grappling with this grave task.

We shall not repeat the pitiful mistake of the last Armistice, when we actually allowed the position in the enemy countries to become worse, until the Armistice period inflicted, in some respects, greater injury on the civilian population than the war itself.

But more difficult problems lie ahead, above all, the problem of aggression. The blonde beast superman of Nietzsche still hurls defiance at the Christian code. That last battle our race must win, or die. Let us make up our minds that no false pride of independent nationhood, of isolated sovereignties, shall defeat the great vision of a peaceful and ordered human society. On that basis alone of unshakable determination can the future organisation for security become effective. The Atlantic Charter already contains a sketch for our future blueprint of security.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

(A)—LEADING EVENTS.

14—10—43 (Thursday).	Heavy American Flying Fortress Raid on *SCHWEINFURT* in Germany.
	Russians retake *ZAPOROZHE*.
	Rommel assumes command of the operations against *YUGOSLAV* Patriots.
15—10—43 (Friday).	British 8th Army takes *CAMPOBASSO* in Italy.
	Genl. Sir H. Pownall is appointed Chief of Staff to *LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN*.
16—10—43 (Saturday).	British 8th Army captures *VINCHIATURO* in Italy.
	American troops occupy *GIZO* in the Solomons.
17—10—43 (Sunday).	R. A. F. raids *BERLIN*.
18—10—43 (Monday).	Messrs. Eden and Cordell Hull arrive in *MOSCOW* to take part in the Tripartite Conference.
19—10—43 (Tuesday).	The north bank of the *VOLTURNO* River in *ITALY* is cleared of the Germans.
	Russian troops outflank *DNEPROPETROVSK*.
	Another heavy American raid on *RABAUL* in New Britain ; 50 Jap planes destroyed.
20—10—43 (Wednesday).	Lord Wavell becomes the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

(B)—NEWS IN BRIEF.

Italy.—The 5th Army has captured San Croce, Cajazo, Amorosi, Cerreto, Morrone, Cancello, Arnone, Ruviano, Pontellatone, Alvignano, Liberi, Gioia, Faichio and Breza.

The 8th Army has taken Bone Fro, Riccia, Campobasso, Vinchiaturo Monticifone, San Stefano and Ripabottini.

Advancing in 3 sectors the 5th Army has crossed the Volturno and firmly established itself on the north bank from Capua to the sea. With this, the first phase of the battle for Rome has been completed, and the operations have shifted to the plain of Capua, where the Germans have good cover in the innumerable ridges. A battle fought in one of these heights in the Central Italian spine has ended in the enemy's

defeat. According to the latest reports, resistance has slackened and the enemy is retiring, scorching the Capuan plain. ROME is being prepared to withstand a siege, and the whole of the western coast north of the Tiber is being evacuated in fear of Allied landings.

In the eastern sector, the 8th Army is making steady progress in its outflanking movement. Having captured the lateral road from TERMOLI, it is heading for ISERNIA on the way to ROME. Fierce resistance is encountered.

Yugoslavia.—Partisans have attacked ZENICA (central BOZNIA) and captured BERENO (MONTENEGRO). Units of the First BOSNIA Force have taken ZIVNICA. The Yugoslav Army of Liberation has taken ANDROJEVIE (MONTENEGRO). Air attacks on SKOPLJE are reported.

Russia.—YALTA, on the S. coast of the CRIMEA fell on Oct. 13, ZAPOROZHE, a defence point on S. Dnieper, on Oct. 14 and PYATIKPATKI at the junction of the DNEPROPETROVSK—BYELAYA CHARKOV railway on Oct. 19. The Soviet break-through at KREMENCHUG last week and at PYATIKHATKI this week has outflanked DNEPROPETROVSK. Full scale battles, with tanks and artillery are being fought in the streets of MELITOPOL. In White RUSSIA a fierce battle is raging in the GOMEL—RACHITSA—Dnieper—SOZH area.

Air-war.—SCHWEINFURT (BAVARIA) was raided on October 14. 104 German planes were destroyed. The Americans who carried out the attack lost 60 flying fortresses. In intensity the raid ranks with that on PLOESTI. The place is a centre of ball and roller-bearing manufacture. On October 18, HANOVER, important for its oil, rubber and armaments production, was the main target for the R. A. F. There was no fighter opposition.

War at Sea.—A report issued by the U. S. Senate Naval Committee says that though the pattern of the Atlantic Battle is changing hourly, the U-boat campaign is approaching a show-down. The U. S. is now shipping food and equipment to at least 32 different fronts.

The Pacific.—The Americans have captured GIZO in the SOLOMONS. More progress has been made in the drive for MADANG. Rushing up the valleys of URIA and FARIA the Allies have approached KUMBARUM in the RAMU area. Over KAHIB and ALEXISHAFEN, 104 enemy aircraft were destroyed for the loss of two Allied planes. In a raid on RABAUL, 60 more aircraft were destroyed. Japanese shipping was also attacked in this area. As a result a destroyer, a gunboat and a merchantship were sunk. An 8,000 ton transport was hit in the KAVIENG area.

MAKIN Island, GASMATA, CAPE GLOUCESTER, TUAM ISLAND, TORABAY, BUKA Passage, WEWAK and BORAM were raided.

China.—Early in the week, Japanese troops launched a triple attack from the BURMA Border into YUNNAN Province, crossed a tributary of the Salween and captured the little town of PIENNA. The American Air Force bombed this area. The Japanese are now retreating from their new positions.

Burma.—Patrol activity has increased. A number of minor clashes have occurred. In ARAKAN, a Japanese patrol was driven off near MAUNGDAW. British patrols and levies successfully ambushed several enemy parties in the Chin Hills. The air-raids of the week are recorded in the next section.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

11—10—43 (Monday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—(102 Axis planes destroyed;
32 Allied planes missing) (By U.S.A A.F.).
MUNSTER and **KREFELD** (both in Germany).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Gun positions and motor transport in the battle area in Italy.
The airfield at GARITZA (Corfu).

RUSSIA.

(41 Axis planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Shipping in the harbour area at AMBOINA (Dutch East Indies).
Jap positions in the WEWAK area (10 enemy planes destroyed).
A Jap convoy off BUKA (Solomons).
A Jap tanker off New Guinea (sunk).

BURMA.

(By R. A. F.).
Enemy troop positions and supply dumps in the KALEMYO area.
NACHAI.
Enemy occupied villages in the MAYU Penisula.
Rivercraft on the MAYU River and in the AKYAB area.

(By U. S. A. A. F.).
Railway yards at SAGAING.
Trackage in the NYAUNGBINWUN.
Railway yards in the MANDALAY area.

12—10—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY & NIGHT:—No information.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Gun positions and motor transport in the battle area in Italy.
Air combat off TERMOLI (1 German plane destroyed).
The sea-plane base south of ORBETELLO.
Enemy shipping off the Island of COS.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

TIMOR.
PURDY Islands (Admiralty Group).

BURMA.

(By R. A. F.).
Railway junctions in PYINMANA junction and TOUNGOO.
Villages in the KALEMYO area.
Railway yards at MINZU.

13—10—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

No information about Allied air activity.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Trains north of PESCARA.
Bivouac areas near VASTO (Italy).
Tanks and troop concentrations in the 5th Army battle area.
Rail junctions and crossroads near FORMIA.
Motor transport in the CHIET area.

RUSSIA.

(97 German aircraft shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The air base and harbour at RABAUL in New Britain (120 Japanese craft sunk; 177 Jap planes put out of action).

BURMA.

(By R. A. F.).
The railway station at MONYWA.
Enemy occupied buildings at PAKOKKU.
Villages and troop positions in the KALEMYO area.
Offensive patrols over the MAYU Penisula, MYITTHA valley and AKYAB area.
Japanese army huts near RATHEDAUNG.

(By U. S. A. A. F.).
Ferry crossing at MYITNGE.
Railroad yards at TOUNGOO.
The railway centre and port of PROME.

14—10—43 (Thursday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

(104 enemy planes shot down; 62 Allied planes missing).
(By U. S. A. A. F.)

Day:—
An important war plant at SCHWEINFURT (Germany).
Cargo ships near BREST.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Marshalling yards at TERNI.
Railroads south of GIVLLA and north of PESCARA
Rail junctions near FORMIA.

RUSSIA.

(93 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and aircraft on the ground all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Kahili airfield on BOUGAINVILLE (Solomons).
Shipping near BOUGAINVILLE.

BURMA.

No information.

15—10—43 (Friday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

No information about Allied air activity.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

(6 enemy planes destroyed; 3 Allied planes missing).
The road junction near VENAFRO.
Motor transport and bridge near CAPUA.
An ammunition dump near PETACCIATO.
The airfield at MARIGLIANA (near Rome).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Japanese bases at MADANG (N. Guinea) and **CAPE GLOUCESTER** (N. Britain).
The airfield at GASMATA (N. Britain) and **installations** at LINDENHAFEN (N. Britain).
The airfield at ALEXISSHAFEN (N. Guinea).
Enemy barges off the BUKA Passage (Solomons).

BURMA.

Dockyards at RANGOON.
Railway yards at PROME, RANGOON and HENZADA.
Barracks at KYAUKPYU.
The dock area at KYAUKMYAUNG.
Ferry crossing at THABEIKKYIN.

16—10—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

No information.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

(8 enemy planes destroyed).
Marshalling yards at ANCONA.
Roads and supply sheds north of CAPUA.
Motor transport and railways south of ROME.
A merchant vessel off the W. coast of GREECE.
The airfield at ROME CASALE (Greece).
Airfields on RHODES and LOS in the Dodecanese.
East coast railway in Italy near PESCARA.

RUSSIA.

(64 German planes shot down.)

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Air sweeps from MADANG to ORO BAY in New Guinea. (84 enemy planes shot down).

BURMA.

Enemy shipping at KATHA.
River craft and sampans along the IRRAWADDY and MAYU Rivers.
Landing ground at BHAMO.
Huts in the RATHEDAUNG area.

17—10—43. (Sunday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

NIGHT :—

BERLIN (By R. A. F).
Laying mines in enemy waters.
Railway targets in occupied territory.
Shipping off the DUTCH coast.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy communications at ALIFE.
East coast railway near ANCONA.
Gun positions, troop concentration and road junctions in the battle area.
Motor transport on the east coast of Italy.

RUSSIA.

(45 enemy planes destroyed).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.
Retreating German troops on the west bank of DNIEPER.

FAR EAST.

The airfields at WEWAK and BORAM (22 Jap planes destroyed).
Supply dumps at GASMATA.
A-A positions at CAPE GLOUCESTER.
Enemy barges off ROTTOCK BAY.
Air combats over VITIAZ Straits (2 enemy planes shot down).
ALEXISCHAFEN (25 Jap planes destroyed).
Shippings at KAHILI (6 Jap planes shot down).

BURMA.

The railway station at SAGAING.
AKYAB town.
River craft along the IRRAWADDY and CHINDWIN Rivers.
The railway junction of NABA.
Oil tanks and barges along the IRRAWADDY.

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

12—10—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

East coast of ENGLAND (1 enemy plane shot down).

RUSSIA.

Russian positions in the whole Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

LAE (N. Guinea).

13—10—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

Coastal district of East ANGLIA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats over MELITOPOL.

FAR EAST.

No information.

14—10—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

ZAPOROZHE area.

FAR EAST.

ATTU Island.

15—10—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

Parts of South-east ENGLAND and East ANGLIA.

RUSSIA.

German troops on the opposite side of KREMENCHUG.

FAR EAST.

Allied positions in the FINSCHHAFEN area (New Guinea).

16—10—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

Parts of South-east ENGLAND, HOME COUNTIES and LONDON area.

RUSSIA.

No information.

FAR EAST.

BUNA and **TOROBAY** (New Guinea).

17—10—43 (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

Places in South-east ENGLAND, East ANGLIA and HOME COUNTIES.

RUSSIA.

No information.

FAR EAST.

LAE and **FINSCHHAFEN** (N. Guinea).

18—10—43 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

A few places in South-east ENGLAND.
LONDON area (very slight casualties).

RUSSIA.

Russian bridgeheads on the west bank of DNIEPER.

FAR EAST.

Allied shipping and installations at ORO BAY (31 Jap planes destroyed or shot down).

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE SITUATION IN ITALY. In assessing the present situation in ITALY there are two factors to consider—one political and the other military. Politically, the overthrow of Fascism has brought no relief yet; it has rather thrown ITALY for the present into a state of confusion and chaos. ITALY has now two masters, one in the south and the other in the north: one monarchical and the other

Fascist. Militarily, one-third of the country, the south, has been ravaged by the retreating enemy, and presents the woeful spectacle of burnt cities and ruined villages, and the other two-thirds is under the German Jack-boot, where arrests and deportations are the order of the day.

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NEITHER FISH NOR FLESH. Nor has her status as a nation improved, in spite of her declaration of war. The Emmanuel-Badoglio Government though recognised as a co-belligerent has not been admitted into the circle of the United Nations. She is not an ally. Her military contribution is still negligible. The róle of Badoglio is that of an informer, mainly. Neither the Fighting French nor the Yugoslavs tolerate the new Government. ABYSSINIA abhors it. The Allies, of course, will not permit Emmanuel to call himself Emperor of ABYSSINIA or King of ALBANIA.

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DIVIDED. ITALY presents the spectacle of a country divided against itself, though strangely enough there is no civil war, because the people are not divided but inert. This is rather due to Mussolini and his new brand of Fascism. Let us also grant that Mussolini's restoration has not been without use to the Axis. It has no doubt, though to a limited extent, impressed the BALKANS. It has encouraged the civilian front inside GERMANY, because Hitler can still snap his fingers at the Allies and tell his people 'You see, the Nazi-Fascist combination continues. ITALY is still fighting on my side.'

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AN ITALIAN FORCE. But as a matter of fact the restoration of neither Mussolini nor Fascism is of much use to Hitler in ITALY. Mussolini's restoration has not aroused any enthusiasm in ITALY itself, nor has his new republican Fascism secured followers. Mussolini and his Fascist leaders are reported to have been brought to BOLOGNE 'under strong German protection.' Mussolini's part in the Hitlerian farce is that of a harlequin. His own followers treat him with contempt and refuse to co-operate. Out of 10 million Italians whom he summoned to rally to his standard less than 2% have responded, and the registration even for police duties is said to be negligible. Germans may lose their hold on ITALY, through sabotage and revolt, because of Mussolini's hated presence.

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UNDER THE GERMAN JACK-BOOT. Fascism itself, though revived in the name of republicanism, is also receiving short shrift from the German masters. Like Pétain-ism in FRANCE, it is being treated with contempt by the Germans; worse, it is being battered to death if it does not subserve the German cause. No wonder sabotage has increased. Young Italians, says *La Suissa* have taken themselves to the mountains and started a guerilla warfare. The death-penalty is being inflicted for every kind of resistance and non-co-operation. All able-bodied persons are being registered for labour in GERMANY. The whole country is being ravaged for food-stuffs, military equipment and raw materials.

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RESORGIMENTO. ITALY, plunged in shame and disaster, defeat and capitulation, devastation and plunder, may yet have to suffer more for the sins of her past, and in punishment for her twenty years of Fascism, before the invader is finally expelled from her soil. She may be galvanised at last into civil war

by her present agonies. She may thus enter on a new life by carrying out another Risorgimento—but wlil she ?

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A DEFENSIVE BATTLE. Since the failure of their attempt to drive the Allied Army back into the sea at SALERNO the Germans, in the main, have relapsed into a defensive battle and rearguard action. Their general plan has been to fight with extreme stubbornness where the country favoured a halt, but to break away and fall back when the Allies reached the position in strength. The exception was in the TERMOLI area where the 8th Army threatened to outflank them. Then the Germans, compelled to go on the offensive, switched their 16th Panzer Division, hitherto opposed to the 5th Army, across the country to the Adriatic. But the German attempts to hold the Allied forces failed in the eastern as well as the western sectors and now, having sustained a considerable loss, they are once more on the retreat, this time into the hills behind.

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THE BATTLE FOR ROME. The Allied line now runs from the Volturno estuary through CAPUA to four miles north of TERMOLI. After establishing bridgeheads across the Volturno the 5th Army has resumed its march, and is advancing in the plain of CAPUA. The real battle for ROME may be said to have begun. In face of the powerful Allied thrust the German forces are falling back, burning villages and shooting cattle.

The 8th Army is making steady progress. It has seized the lateral road from TERMOLI to VINCHIATURO, and has forced the enemy to evacuate CAMPOBASSO 48 miles north-west of FOGGIA.

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WINTER IS APPROACHING Hitler's EUROPE, and the great problem for GERMANY is to house the homeless, roofless, bombed millions. For want of accommodation they are being shoved into concentration camps. Though the evacuees prefer to come back to their residences though ruined, the authorities will not give them food if they do so. To lack of shelter has been added lack of food. A wave of food thefts is said to be sweeping through GERMANY. Fruit, vegetables, rabbits and food parcels are said to be stolen.

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EXHAUSTED. The naval blockade imposed by BRITAIN, in spite of pretences to the contrary, has reduced GERMANY's supplies and the question is how long she can live on food plundered from the occupied countries. She has lost also practically all the stores of war material accumulated before the war, besides twice as many fighting men already as in the whole of the last war.

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THE BALKAN SITUATION created by the Italian surrender is getting worse and worse. Apart from the loss of 30 Italian Divisions, it has raised a host of resisters—the Patriots, the Chetniks and the Partisans. The German hold on the Dalmatian and Albanian coasts is precarious. The Partisans particularly, have their concentrations in SUSAK, SPLIT, NIKSIK, DURAZZO, VALONA and all the islands between FIUME and SPLIT. Apart from three Bulgarian Divisions and a few Croat troops, GERMANY has no helpers in this area. Rommel has been placed in command of this region as well as of North ITALY, and German forces are

clinging hopelessly to the islands of the South-East Mediterranean to provide a cover to the BALKANS.

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THE PROPAGANDA BOOMERANG. Lying propaganda of the Goebbelsian variety has a dangerous way of hitting back. Here are some instances :—

First: In his Harvest Thanks-giving oratory of October 3, Goebbels boasted that the German bread-ration was 100 grammes higher than at the beginning of the war, even though 'the majority of the sons of German peasants were at the front.' In the qualifying clause he gave the secret away. How could the 'grammes' increase, in the absence of peasants from GERMANY? Obviously it could be done only by plundering others. Goebbels, on this occasion, let go a new slogan, 'Plough and Sword ensure victory'; this means the plough of the peasants in Occupied lands and the sword of the Germans in the battlefields.

In the same speech Goebbels, weighed down by the memories of 1918, mused aloud on 'the imponderable tendencies' incidental to war, and characterised the present struggle as 'a fight for national existence.' The reaction to this speech in enslaved EUROPE has been to take him at his word. The enslaved nations, agreeing with him for once, have taken it for granted that GERMANY will be defeated, and by increasing sabotage are hastening the day of its downfall. This is the meaning of the disturbances in DENMARK which show no signs of subsidence.

To take a second instance in which German propaganda has overreached itself, the pronouncement of Dr. Goebbels emphasising the necessity of evacuating BERLIN in order to escape from the attentions of the R.A.F. has had disastrous results by increasing, instead of allaying, panic. The trek from the capital is on the increase.

Here is a third instance. Goebbels' advertisement of an imaginary peace-talk with RUSSIA has been similarly unhappy. The German soldiers, taking him at his word, and fancying that peace was near, naturally slackened in order to save their skin. Seeing its deleterious effects on his own men, Goebbels has now withdrawn this line of propaganda.

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CRUEL DECREES. There can be no better indication of failing morale than the new harsh decrees which are now issued in despair and cruelty in GERMANY. All signs of defeatism, say the propagandists, will be ruthlessly blotted out. Death sentences will be inflicted, and those who are to be sentenced will be executed 'not only in atonement of their offences but as a warning to others'.

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EXTIRPATION OF JEWS. Of the same kind is the decree which Hitler has now signed, that the whole of EUROPE must be freed from the Jews before the war ends. The task, it is said has been entrusted to Eichmann, the notorious Gestapo chief, the organiser of the Jewish persecution in DENMARK. Even Himmler, it would appear, is against this step but Hitler has overruled. 'Moderate' Nazi leaders have asked Hitler to intern them instead of deporting them to slaughter houses. The recent Swedish protest has just postponed the transportation of the Jews in DENMARK to GYDNIA.

THE RUSSIAN OFFENSIVES. The Germans say that their withdrawal to the Middle Dnieper has come to an end. If they had added the word 'temporarily' they would be more truthful. Autumn rains, and the need to reorganise after months of unremitting advance, it is true, have slowed down the Russian movements for a time; true also that though Russian forces have broken through the Dnieper at some points they have yet to hold them in strength. But it is a fact that the Dnieper has been pierced and the Russians do hold the initiative.

Trans-Ocean, in its observation of Oct. 8 calls the new Russian Offensive a 'propaganda bluff', but the German home propaganda has taken a slightly different turn. It avoids speaking of the offensive as a whole, but mentions one sector at a time, in order to minimise the scale of the Russian attack.

The enemy is welcome to his devices, and may describe his withdrawal as 'a perfect masterpiece of military art', while the fact is that 'the masterpiece' turns out to be Russian, instead of German. In less than a week the Russians have restarted on a 1,300 mile long offensive, driving the Germans before them again in the North, Centre and South. The Dnieper line no longer exists. It has been pierced, not at one but at three points. Moreover, the present advance has deprived the enemy of the respite he hoped for on reaching the Dnieper line.

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DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES. October has proved a month of diplomatic activities. Public attention is now focussed on the Political—Military Commission in ALGIERS and the Three-Power Conference in MOSCOW.

In ALGIERS all problems relating to liberated areas will be discussed. Here M-Vishinsky, described as RUSSIA'S 'third-man' will represent Stalin. It is significant that the Algiers Commission, originally called 'the Mediteranean Commission' is now termed 'Political—Military'. It is said to be a semi-permanent institution.

Mr. Anthony Eden and Cordell Hull having arrived, the MOSCOW talks have begun. In their general aspects the aim is to increase co-operation between the three Great Powers, to attain an early Victory and to establish a 'just and lasting' peace. Long-term subjects, such as post-war frontiers may not be taken up at present, but the consideration of the Second Front will be on the agenda. RUSSIA will demand reparation from GERMANY. M. Boris E. Vadeneyev, Deputy of the Supreme Soviet, has declared :—

"Germany will have to produce and replace all that is necessary to rehabilitate the devastation. The extent of indemnification for material damage must be such as to assure full restoration and further development of the national economy of the Soviet Union. It will require much labour and effort to repair all the damage. And it is jus, that Germany should have to make good the destruction and plundering of her hordes".

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THE AZORES. British forces have disembarked in the AZORES which, as we reported last week, PORTUGAL has placed at the disposal of the Allies for the duration of the war. The U. S. will share the bases with BRITAIN. The Portuguese Prime Minister has said that his country will maintain neutrality on the European mainland, which General Franco of Spain has also promised to guard 'vigilantly.' PORTUGAL has set an example to other neutral States like TURKEY and EIRE, and shown that the only attitude which neutrals can reasonably adopt in these days of Axis bullying is one of drift towards the Allies.

In the early days of the war, when owing to British reverses the Americans tried to secure the AZORES for their own safety, PORTUGAL not only rejected the overtures, but virtually served a notice on the U. S., intimating that any attempt to occupy them would be resisted. Now has come a change of heart, and the facilities once denied to AMERICA have been granted to GREAT BRITAIN. For this favour the Axis is to be partly thanked—particularly, the Japanese, who two years ago took over Portuguese TIMOR and have now taken MACAO, the Portuguese port in CHINA. Countries which genuinely tried to be neutral have been compelled to resort by Axis conduct to unneutral acts. PORTUGAL's token of friendliness is in conformity with her 600 years' amity with BRITAIN and a demonstration besides of the decline of Axis prestige.

BERLIN and TOKYO have sent protests. But what more will happen it is too early to say. It may be another declaration of war, or only a severance of diplomatic relations, or at the worst, bombing of civilians. Hitler is too weak and too busy elsewhere to adopt the first course. If he attacked he will open another front against himself. If he breaks off diplomatic relations he will lose one of the few diplomatic channels still left to him for negotiations. PORTUGAL has powerful friends. PORTUGAL knows that she is on the winning side.

The AZORES are a group of 9 volcanic islands standing at the cross-roads of the Atlantic lane, which is still a vulnerable artery. Situated 780 miles from LISBON, they are 900 miles from AFRICA and 1,000 miles from NEW-FOUNDLAND, on the same latitude as NEW YORK. Their possession will give air-cover to the shortest Atlantic route. For the past three years Allied ships have been obliged to follow the longer northern route to avoid enemy bombers operating from French bases. Better protection can also be given hereafter to Mediterranean convoys, and a closer watch can be kept over the Bay of Biscay which is the hunting ground of U-boat packs. They may also be used as bases for light naval forces and as a resting place after long cruises.

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EUROPE'S SKIES are now Allied skies. Every corner of occupied EUROPE is now within range of Allied bombers, every hour of the day. British and American bombers now so co-operate that enemy defences both on the ground and in the air have to be on the alert throughout the 24 hours. The recent attack on FRANKFURT, which was heavily bombed by the Americans in daylight and still more heavily by the R. A. F. on the same night, illustrates the point. Now, with the newly won bases in ITALY, the attacks have spread to new targets. To the offensives from the west have been added the offensives from the south, and parts of the Reich hitherto considered immune have come within range of attack, including centres to which armaments industries were recently removed. Further, the contraction and withdrawal of the German front in ITALY and RUSSIA have brought other industrial centres within bombing range. Thus Allied bombing has affected the armaments production, and Speer, the German Minister for Munitions, has summoned a conference of aircraft constructors and designers to discuss the production of 'air-armament against the bombing terror.'

To counteract the increasing air assault, GERMANY has now materially strengthened her air-defences and increased her fighter forces. This means that the air offensives are no more casual or small raids but that they have become major operations, involving considerable losses. Not only has German production been affected, but the German High

Command has been forced to recall part of the *Luftwaffe* from the Russian Front. Only one quarter of the original German fighter force is now in RUSSIA, says Sir Philip Jonbert, Air Chief Marshal.

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NEW DEVELOPMENTS. A new chapter in aerial warfare was opened on the 9th, when U. S. bombers based on BRITAIN made their first attack on North-east GERMANY, East PRUSSIA and Occupied POLAND in **direct support** of RUSSIA. This involved a round trip of 2,000 miles. They attacked in daylight and without fighter cover, because these Flying Fortresses can take care of themselves. Their invulnerability is due to their terrific fire-power.

Another aerial success, scarcely less spectacular, was that of the British Mosquitos on the same night. They carried out a night raid on BERLIN but **without losing a single craft.** The Mosquito is the swiftest flier known. It is the U-boat of the air.

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FAR-EASTERN STRATEGY is taking shape. It will be both short and long-term. The short-term arrangement will include the conquest of BURMA, which will be essentially Lord Louis Mountbatten's affair, and the conquest of RABAUL, which will be a combined Australian and U. S. affair. The long-term campaign will involve the complete destruction of JAPAN as a Power. The war arena will be divided into 3 zones, of which one will be assigned to the U. S., AUSTRALIA and CANADA, a second to BRITAIN and INDIA—and this will be under the South-East Asia Command—and a third to CHINA. The U. S. will bring the largest naval force, CHINA the biggest land force, and BRITAIN, a combined sea, land and air force. The task of equipping the Chinese ally will be both British and American. The U. S. may launch its first major offensive on the PHILIPPINES, as may be inferred, in fact, from Tojo's hasty promise of 'independence' to the Filipinos.

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WAR EFFORT IN PUDUKKOTTAI. The Sulphate of Ammonia Control Order, The Enemy Agents (Amendment) Regulation, and The Soldiers' Litigation (Amendment) Regulation, have been promulgated.

The transport of bran outside the State has been forbidden.

Making advances on the security of food grains has been made an offence.

Co-operative Societies, dealing in cloth, have been exempted from the payment of licence fees.

Under the Asiatic British Evacuees (Census) Order, 1943, every evacuee who has arrived in INDIA, since the 8th December 1941, having left any territory to the east of INDIA in consequence of military operations, must, if he is in the State, go in person between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on any working day in the month of November 1943, to the office of the Tahsildar of the taluk in which he is for the time being resident, and furnish to the census enumerator appointed in this behalf full and true answers to the questions he will ask.

PORTUGAL'S FOREIGN POLICY OF FOUR PRINCIPLES.

Portugal, the scene of considerable speculation as to coming events, has pursued a foreign policy of four principles—neutrality, loyalty to the alliance with Great Britain, friendship and close intercourse with Spain and development of trade and other relations with Brazil.

The title of "the oldest ally" used of the relation of Portugal to Great Britain is derived from the treaty of commerce made between Edward I of England and Portugal in 1294. In 1373 Edward III of England and Ferdinand of Portugal signed a treaty binding the countries in perpetual alliance. The word "perpetual" in this instance has proved of much more meaning than in most human affairs, for the alliance has remained ever since.

On the outbreak of this war, speaking in the National Assembly on October 10, 1939, the Portuguese Prime Minister, Dr. Salazar, announced that Great Britain had asked nothing in the name of the alliance which could oblige Portugal to take part in the war, but their own consciences, he added, would be unhappy if they did not immediately reaffirm their friendly feelings and full fidelity to the alliance. A few months later, the late Duke of Kent represented King George at the celebrations of the 800th anniversary of the foundation of Portugal after the expulsion of the Moors, and the 300th of the restoration of her independence from Spain.

Dr. Salazar's régime has been at some pains to impress upon the modern Portuguese national consciousness the fact that the country is the fourth colonial Power of the world, with an empire of 850,000 square miles, some 25 times the size of the homeland. It includes the nine islands of the Azores, which though lying some 700 miles off the coast of Portugal, are regarded as metropolitan territory. Of late years, however, they have been granted a certain amount of Home Rule.

Like other neutrals, Portugal has found the war economically disturbing. To the curtailed foreign trade and shortages of imports, there has been added a succession of poor harvests. Also, by last year over 34 per cent of the country's total revenue had become dedicated to defence expenditure, notably, improvement of naval strength.

The régime established in 1933 under Dr. Salazar's leadership is a kind of corporative system still in development. There is a Council of State, convened on occasions of national emergency, and to invoke or dissolve the National Assembly, which consists of 90 deputies elected for four years by direct suffrage. The Assembly passes legislation which has been discussed by the Corporative Chamber, a body of 23 sections, representing the chief elements of national economy.

SALAZAR—THE SHY DICTATOR OF PORTUGAL.

(The Spectator and the Daily Mail).

Neatly dressed and with an air of quiet distinction, Dr. Salazar might pass for a Chancery barrister, a naval officer of the sedater sort, or a college don. He is, in fact, the latter; Professor of Economics and Finance in the ancient University of Coimbra.

He is also more than that. Unrecognized among the swarms of gay and prosperous Portuguese who owe their gaiety and prosperity to him alone, he is Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, the "Shy Dictator" of Portugal, creator of the *Estado Novo*, and the most significant figure to-day in South-Western Europe.

He was born in 1889 in the village of Santa Comba Dao, between Vizeu and Coimbra. His peasant parents kept the village inn, and with ecclesiastical ambitions for their clever son managed to send him to the Vizeu Seminary, where he was ordained deacon. He never proceeded to priest's orders, but decided to become a student of economics. At 21 he entered Coimbra University, where after a brilliant academic career he was appointed Professor of Economics in 1916.

Ten years later, under Marshal Gomez de Costa, who had led the Portuguese Expeditionary Force against the Germans in the Great War, the nation revolted against the oligarchy of venal politicians which had controlled the country for 16 years after the fall of the monarchy in 1910. Portugal was bankrupt, public finances and administration were in a chaotic condition, and the Marshal begged the Professor of Economics to clean the Augean stable of the State.

Salazar, who hated and still hates publicity in all its forms and has no itch for power, reluctantly consented. But after six days of office he resigned, disgusted with the corruption and incompetence of the professional politicians. In despair, the Government applied to the League of Nations for a loan, but jibbed at the League's prerequisite, an exhaustive inquiry into the affairs of the Treasury and the Bank.

Once more the nation turned to the Coimbra don, who, with even more reluctance than before, accepted the portfolio of Finance. In April, 1928, he took office as the nominee of no party, but with the single stipulation of an absolutely free hand with men and methods. Within 12 months he created financial and administrative order out of chaos. His first Budget showed a substantial surplus, with no repudiation of obligations, no tariff-juggling, no short cuts to solvency, no excessive taxation. At long last revenue balanced expenditure, and has continued to do so ever since with increasing surpluses. The *Escudo* was stablilized, the external floating debt paid off, and prices rendered steady.

The worker of this miracle was hailed by his countrymen as their saviour, and they have since entrusted him with the control of Foreign Affairs and the Services, as well as Finance, and in effect invested him with plenary powers in every department of the State. With quiet efficiency he continued his work of rehabilitation. Without "troop movements," the zooming of aircraft, or the booming of guns, in 1933 he established the *Estado Novo*, the present Corporative Constitution. Its three foundations are the individual, the family-unit and the Christian Religion.

Within six years Salazar had established efficient public services, civil and military, individual and religious freedom, solvency and peace. It was one man's work, but he assumed no vainglorious title equivalent in Portuguese to Fuhrer or Duce.

He loathes the lime-light. His photographs are infrequent in the Press and hard to find on sale in the shops. He has been described as carrying his power "as a Christian bears his Cross."

Salazar takes no pleasure in mammoth parades or hysterically cheering crowds. He has made only six speeches in 15 years.

Not one of his fellow countrymen in a hundred would recognise him in the street. His life is almost hermitlike. He is a bachelor, teetotaller, nonsmoker and vegetarian. He has fixed his own salary at £ 1,000 a year, and is proud of his peasant origin and cottage birth. As the political head of the country, which has had an alliance with Britain for six centuries, Dr. Salazar has given practical expression to his sympathy for our cause by sheltering many British refugees, and putting the resources of Portugal at the service of the International Red Cross for the care of British prisoners of war. And in a radio broadcast on April 27 last—15th anniversary of his assumption of office—after referring to the connections with Brazil and Great Britain as Portugal's closest foreign ties, he said: "We are not directly engaged in the struggle but we are in the war like the rest."

The Axis, of course, have done their best to lure Salazar into the web of intrigues. They tried last year to get him to go to Rome, where it was hoped that he and the Spanish Foreign Minister would take part in discussions about "collaboration for the maintenance of the freedom of the Mediterranean." Fortunately one of Dr. Salazar's aversions is for foreign travel and he declined the invitation.

IRREGULAR WAR CAUSES REGULAR MESS.

EFFECT OF SOUTH EUROPE'S REVOLT ON GERMANS.

(*Liberator in the Observer*).

The revolt of Southern Europe has assumed full military proportions. The outstanding characteristic of this fighting is that general strength in a theatre of war such as Italy or the Balkans has no longer any relation to the real military strength. General paralysis arising from this irregular war has upset all normal calculations. It has transformed both tactics and strategy.

In Northern Italy, for example, the Germans have 12 to 15 divisions. One of these divisions might have made all the difference to the German resistance in Corsica. Another two divisions at Salerno during the critical days might have turned Kesselring's fortune. Yet the Germans were unable to dispatch these. They found that the military commitments of occupying a hostile country in active eruption are out of all proportion to those of regular warfare.

Thus Rommel's calculations were completely falsified. He had been thinking in terms of a front, and he estimated at the outset of the occupation of Italy that he could hold the 500-mile coast from Mentone to Trieste with the troops at his disposal, while Kesselring's force would act as a kind of skirmishing outpost to delay the Allies.

What Rommel and the German High Command failed to understand was that the opposition of Italian workers, and one part of the army, would compel him to hold—not 500-miles of front, but 60,000 square miles of territory. Instead of commanding a flexible fighting force, to which he was accustomed, Rommel had to atomize his army in order to guard his communications with Germany and France, to watch over public utilities, to hunt down British prisoners of war, to stand guard over recalcitrant Italian workers, and to maintain order. There are 60 provincial capitals under Rommel's command. If he were to put a brigade into each, he would have no troops left.

In the Balkans, the Germans are similarly situated. It may be said that Field Marshal Weich has 12 to 15 German divisions, seven Croat divisions and a number of Bulgars in his Balkan striking force. In practice he has, of course, nothing of the kind. He has 22 to 27 divisions altogether, to maintain German rule over an area of 150,000 square miles. His forces are like dots on a landscape, and tied to posts widely dispersed-in Rhodes, Crete, Salonika and Peloponnesos, on the railway to Belgrade, and on the coast of the Adriatic. Large areas of this German-controlled territory have not seen a German or statellite soldier for many weeks.

A second consequence of this revolt is that it has not only dictated an uneconomic dispersal of German and statellite forces, but it has also prevented any form of concentration or mutual reinforcement. It is hard to convey what this means to German military planning. It has throughout this war been based on the creation of a *schwerpunkt*, a focal point of battle into which every possible man and weapon could be concentrated. So long, therefore, as revolt remains in active or even potential eruption, the German High Command is unable to deploy its forces in Southern Europe ; nor can it do so till it receives substantial reinforcements from other fronts.

QUESTION OF ITALIAN COLLABORATION WITH ALLIES.

(The Times).

The majority of Italians who participated in or applauded the downfall of Fascism were moved by a calculation which there was no resisting—that Italy had lost both her empire and her war, and that the territory of the motherland faced inevitable invasion, with no further prospect save material ruin and moral disintegration on a growing scale. National interest no less than popular desire was, so it seemed, to get out of the war with the utmost dispatch. Italy, however, was in the unenviable position that although she could make her formal escape from war by surrender to the United Nations, she had an old enemy in a new and worse form in the Germans, and that they, true to their traditional policy of trying to keep the war well beyond the frontiers of the Reich, were bent on turning Italy into a battlefield.

The German plan was clearly anticipated and assessed by at least some of the Italian leaders. From the first they foresaw that by itself the armistice agreement with the Allies was in no sense a solution of Italian difficulties, and that a further step must be taken. Neutrality, in short, was ruled out. The logic of events has proved them right. Armistice was esssential as a first measure in the liberation of Italy. The second was to align resolute and patriotic Italians, conscious of the follies of the past and needs of the present, with the Anglo-American forces in a joint effort to eject the common enemy. Promise of that action was implicit in the discussions which preceded the armistice and in the statements of General Eisenhower and other Allied leaders. It has now to be fulfilled.

The fighting men of Great Britain and the Commonwealth and of the United States have been aware of the goodwill with which they were received, first in Sicily and now in Southern Italy ; and Allied leaders have profited by the co-operation of Italians to ensure the restoration, in some measure, of social and economic activity and public law and order in areas from which the Germans have been driven. These things, however,

though they deserved to be recorded and remembered, in no way met—or meet—the emergencies of the moment. Only the widest belligerent service could—and can—do that. The overriding consideration is military defeat of Germany by the swiftest means possible. Italian participation in the war, if it could be made effective, would much assist the accomplishment of this task. No one can contest the common sense of that view. Equally there can be no illusions for the Italians themselves.

TWO-WAY BOMBING OF GERMANY.

(*Wing Commander L. V. Fraser*).

Two-way bombing of Germany opened with an attack on South Germany from the Middle East on October 1. The immediate effect of the bombing of these South German and Austrian targets is, of course, to strike at those dispersed industries driven from the Ruhr by the Britain-based bomber force. A secondary effect—but equally important in the long strategic view—is to draw off Germany's already strained night fighter force from the western front, and leave the targets there even more vulnerable than they are now.

Nazi defence against night bombing is centred now mainly in night fighters. This is a comparatively recent development. Formerly it was flak, plenty of it. Then it was flak aided by heavy searchlight concentrations. As bombers of the R. A. F., the Dominions air forces and the U. S. A. A. F. persisted in their attacks, and showed a constant and comparatively low casualty figure, the enemy turned to night fighters. He assisted them with searchlights and hanging flares. Allied bombers still hit their targets, and got back with the same constant casualty figure.

The enemy increased his night fighter strength on a defensive belt running from the southern end of Norway through Denmark to North-West Germany and the Low Countries to Dijon on a point halfway down the eastern frontier of France. But he increased it in a very significant manner.

At the beginning of 1942, Germany's night fighter strength on the western front—that is, on that Norway-France belt—was less than 200. By the beginning of 1943 it had more than doubled ; now it is probably well over 500. This represents almost a 300 per cent increase, and almost all of it has been absorbed by the Reich itself. Moreover, day fighter strength devoted to purely defensive purposes has also been enormously increased. There could be no clearer indication of the enemy's rapidly increasing need for defence, against the mounting weight of Allied bombing offensive against Germany and the occupied countries.

This rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul policy has widely-felt repercussions. The increase in fighter strength has been obtained at the expense of Germany's long-range bomber force. Not only is the Reich's production turned away from bombers, but crews also are diverted. Germany's long-range aircraft and personnel position has been serious for some time, and it continues to be serious. Another important feature of this diversion of day and night fighters to the defence of the Reich itself, is that it has caused serious depletion of the air force used against the Russians on the eastern front. There, in many areas, German armies are fighting without air cover.

The significance of the first raid by Allied Fortresses based on North Africa on Southern Germany thus emerges. It was the first. There will be more. There will be

more in greater force, with greater effect on more precise targets. As airfields on the Italian mainland are made ready for Allied operation, they will be as regularly delivered as the almost nightly blows from Britain.

Hitler's answer must be to rush fighters to South Germany. It is unlikely that he can supply this need from his factories. They are already at the limit of production, and all of them are coming more and more within easy reach of Allied bombing. So production is more likely to diminish than increase. Fighters for the protection of Southern Germany can come from only one place—the western front. When the two-way bombing attack gets into its swing, the strain on the German fighter belt will be so great that something must break.

FINSCHAFEN.

The Australian war correspondent, H. J. Summers, commenting on the capture of Finschafen by the men of the Ninth Australian Division, says that they took just 11 days to capture the base after their landing 6 miles to the north.

The dangers and difficulties they overcame were much greater than at Lae or Salamaua. The outcome was never in doubt, but sharp encounters were frequent, and Japanese air opposition was very considerable.

The action which led to the fall of Finschafen demonstrated Army and Air co-operation at its best. The magnificent work of our Finschafen force in the first hour after the landing was the pivot on which the whole operation rested.

We didn't rout the waiting Japanese without loss. It would be idle to pretend that the assault had been easy. The men had to make the crossing of the Bumi River some distance upstream, which brought them into mountainous country, and to reach the heights of some of these knife-edge ridges they had to pull themselves up hand over hand, hewing gripping places for their feet as they went.

It is consistently reported by local people, through whose territory the Japanese have passed, that the enemy has been suffering severely from disease. They claim to have seen Japanese dying "all along the way." The chief trouble seems to have been dysentery, which the enemy contracts in a violent form.

JAPANESE AIR FLEET PLAYS FOR SAFETY.

(*The Daily Telegraph*).

"After a long period of defensive strategy in Burma, we are determined to take the offensive there." That announcement by President Roosevelt of one of the momentous decisions taken at Quebec has been followed from both ends of the Axis—Tokyo and Berlin—by statements that great Allied forces are near Burma ready to strike as soon as the monsoon ends, a date now imminent.

The almost daily effective onslaughts of R. A. F. and United States Army Air Force bombers working from Indian bases have prevented the Japanese from developing Burma as a place of arms, denied them effective use of Rangoon, and shattered their communications. This continuous air attack has also had other—and much important—results.

It was remarked some time ago that the reactions of the Japanese air force in

"

Burma, as in New Guinea and the Solomons, were becoming weak. The conclusion that, taking Burma and the Pacific together, Japan's air fleets are heavily outnumbered, is irresistible. They play for safety and they have been compelled to a defensive, which wears them away and increases the odds agoinst them. Tokyo's Duce, Tojo, was confessing some time since, in the Fuehrer's recent manner, that the situation had become tense and the difficulties were great.

Japan's air losses are not balanced by new construction, for lack of raw materials and shortage of shipping. Like the *Luftwaffe*, the Japanese air force has become a wasting asset, and the Japanese warlords, like the Germans, have been compelled to switch over their productive capacity from bombers to fighters. In the long run, the air arm which is deprived of offensive power is doomed, with its sea and land forces.

JAPANESE PILOTS NO LONGER AGGRESSIVE.

(*York Shire Post*).

Back in Washington from the South Pacific, Colonel Laurence C. Sherman, Assistant Chief of Staff, in charge of intelligence of the 13th Army Air Force, told me that the Japanese pilot is no longer aggressive as he once was, and the skill of the Japanese is inferior.

"Most of the good ones have been killed," the Colonel explained. "Their losses nearly always include all of the crew, whereas we save many crews from the American planes shot down. Japanese attacks on our bombers are hesitant now. They will not attack one of our bombers unless they have eight or 10 Zeros for the job. This was not true a year ago, when the Japanese was a skilful daring fighter who sought combat."

The Japanese have replaced the planes they have lost in the South Pacific, Colonel Sherman said, but they have not been able to increase the number. Their losses, he said, "have been terrific." The Zero, while still a fast fighter, has been improved hardly at all, and the Japanese two-motored bombers are the biggest they have. There are a few four-engined Japanese planes used for scouting and transport, but they have no four-engined bombers yet, Colonel Sherman said. American planes have improved remarkably.

Relief to Indians in Japanese occupied areas.
How Red Cross supplies have helped.
Difficulty of obtaining news.

Bulk supplies of foodstuffs, medical drugs and clothing have been sent through the Red Cross to Singapore and Hong Kong in the diplomatic exchange ships. Twenty thousand sets of warm clothing were sent for prisoners of war tranferred from the tropics to colder

regions. The Central Y. M. C. A. Committee has been permitted to establish relief work centres in seven camps in Japan, Korea and Formosa.

The lot of prisoners of war has been somewhat improved by the arrival of Red Cross supplies, but drastic restrictions imposed by the Japanese Government on visits to the camps, and on correspondence, have caused very little information about them to filter through.

The financial position of uninterned civilians was difficult, owing to the closing of banks. Small business firms of little importance, or those without stocks, are free to carry on, but profitable businesses are being continued strictly under Japanese supervision. Banks and insurance companies have been compelled by the Japanese to go into liquidation.

Mention should be made of the steps taken to get news of British subjects in Japanese-occupied territories. A total of 7,480 inquiries was received by the Department of Indians Overseas, and information has so far been received of about 1,023 persons. Lists of persons evacuated to Australia and South Africa, or left behind in enemy-occupied territories, have been received from the Government of Australia, the High Commissioner for the U. K. in South Africa and from other official sources. Radio messages broadcast from enemy sources, though they relate chiefly to prisoners of war, have also been helpful.

In the middle of 1942, under an exchange agreement between His Majesty's Government and Japan, arrangements were made to repatriate about 125 Indians from Japan and certain occupied areas. The Indian repatriates, selected by the Protecting Power and a committee of local Indians, reached Bombay on October 27.

Steps were also taken to help Indians who made their way from Hong Kong to Free China.

PENICILLIN.

(*The Daily Express*).

Penicillin, carried in refrigerators to the Mediterranean war zone following urgent requests to Washington, has been used successfully to treat severe wound infections and gas gangrene. Thirteen manufacturers in America are producing the drug, which fights bone-destroying microbes, but supplies are too small to send it to all surgical units.

The first soldier to be treated was an American who touched off a mine near Mount Etna in Sicily. He had many leg wounds and his foot was amputated. Gas gangrene was set up. Infection increased swiftly and part of his leg was removed.

Then penicillin arrived. The soldier was given injections every three hours. He began to improve almost straightway. Four days later it was possible to send him to an evacuation hospital.

A NEW CHILD WONDER.

A stalwart member of the Fascist Party was Nigro Concetti, 2½ years old.

Nigro's membership card in the Sons of the Wolf, a Mussolini club that grabbed them young, was found in some ruins to-day.

At the age of 9 days Nigro swore, according to the card :

'In the name of God and Italy I swear to follow the orders of Il Duce, and to serve the cause of the Fascist revolution with all my strength and, if it be necessary, with my blood.'

DO YOU KNOW THAT.

India makes 90 per cent of the articles required for the army.

There are 2,000,000 handlooms in India.

Production of clothing in India for the Army has risen from 200,000 garments in September, 1939, to 8,000,000 garments a month to-day.

There are 40,477 miles of railways in India. They carried in 1941-42, 623,000,000 passengers and 97,000,000 tons of goods ; and earned a gross income of Rs. 1,446,900,000. About 758,000 persons are employed by the Indian Railways, the annual pay-roll amounting to Rs. 391,400,000.

There are 300,000 miles of roads in British India and the buses and lorries plying on them amounted to 40,000 in 1938-39.

Total electric energy consumed in India in 1941-42 amounted to 2,356,628,000 units.

The 450 tons of railings which used to enclose Hyde Park, London, are now anti-aircraft guns. Five tons make two Bofors guns.

In the first quarter of 1943, British aircraft production was 55 per cent more than in the same quarter of 1942.

One hundred tons of coal are required to make a tank. There are to-day as many as 70,000 different pieces and shapes of fabricated materials in a single aircraft.

Clothes rationing in Britain has saved 5,000,000 tons of shipping, and over £6,000,000,000 expenditure on clothes.

Members of the public are requested to make a free present of any suitable old Tamil books they can spare for the perusal, in their leisure time, of our soldiers outside India.

Books so given will be handed over to the Superintendent of the State Press, who will arrange to despatch them.

'V' DIARY, 1944.
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PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CLXIX. (*Batch 3*).

23-10-43	Municipal Office	6.00 p.m.
24-10-43	Surakkadu	7.00 "
"	Kottaikkadu	7.30 "
25-10-43	Viralimalai	7.00 "
"	Poruvai	7.30 "
26-10-43	Malaiyur	7.00 p.m.
"	Karambakkudi	7.30 "
29-10-43	Valaramanikkam.	7.00 "
"	Embal	7.30 "

LECTURE CLXX. (*Batch 4*).

30-10-43	Municipal Office	6.00 p.m.
31-10-43	Nirpalani	7.00 "
"	Avur	7.30 "
1-11-43	Karaiyur	7.00 "
"	Edaiyattur	7.30 "
2-11-43	Vadavalam	7.00 "
"	Sammattividuthi	7.30 "
3-11-43	C. S. M. High School	10.00 a.m.
"	Rani's High School	10.45 "
3-11-43	College A English	11.00 a.m.
"	College B Tamil	11.00 "
"	Nartamalai	7.00 p.m.
"	Uppiliakkudi	7.30 "
4-11-43	Andakkulam	7.00 "
"	Killanur	7.30 "
5-11-43	Kodumbalur	7.00 "
"	Viralur	7.30 "

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4—11—43	Kulipirai.
5—11—43	Pudukkottai.

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